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OCTOBER 1981

Castlemaine Naturalist

Flowers of the Castlemaine District

by Rita Mills

TETRATHECA CILIATA

Pink Bells, or Black-eyed Susan

Pink Bells is a very showy shrub, and a favourite in the bush.

It is fairly wide spread, with usually a particularly good show to be found in Kalimna Park, North Castlemaine and Smith's Reef.

fig 2.

The flowers, which have four spreading petals, are magenta, and vary from light to quite dark shades of colour. The purple-black stamens which, when viewed through the stereo microscope, prove to be quite thick and hollow, cluster around the ovary to form the "eye" (fig.2)

The short, white stigma emerges from the centre of the cluster.

The anthers as seen through the stereomicroscope.

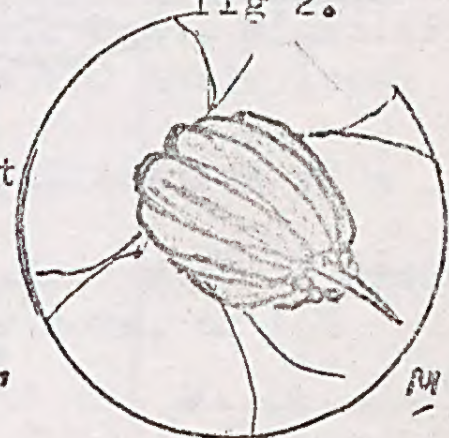


fig.3

The short, curved peduncles and curled-back sepals are slightly hairy, giving the plant its specific name. The peduncles (fig.3) also proved to be interesting when viewed under the microscope, having protuberances rather like a snail's "horn"

The leaves, which are more or less kite shaped, are in whorls of 2 or 3 up the stem.

The whole plant is usually about 30-40 cm high, and can spread to a metre or more.

The peduncle as seen through the stereomicroscope.



x1

RM

RM.

FEEDING AND ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

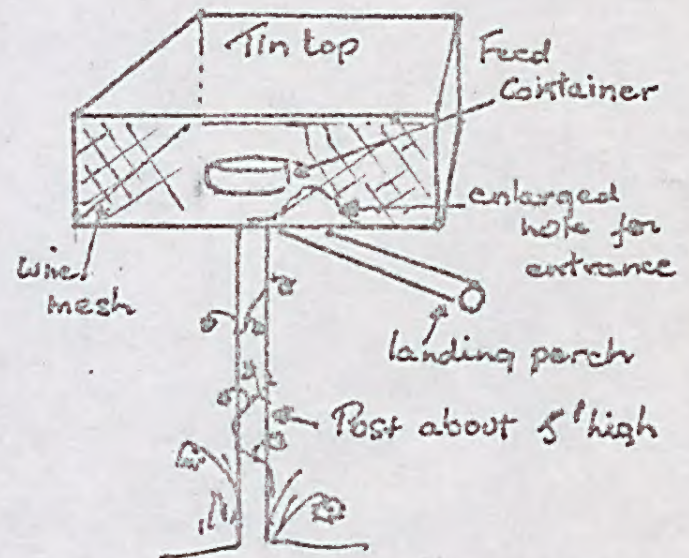
By Werry Collins

Part 3: Rosellas and other Parrots

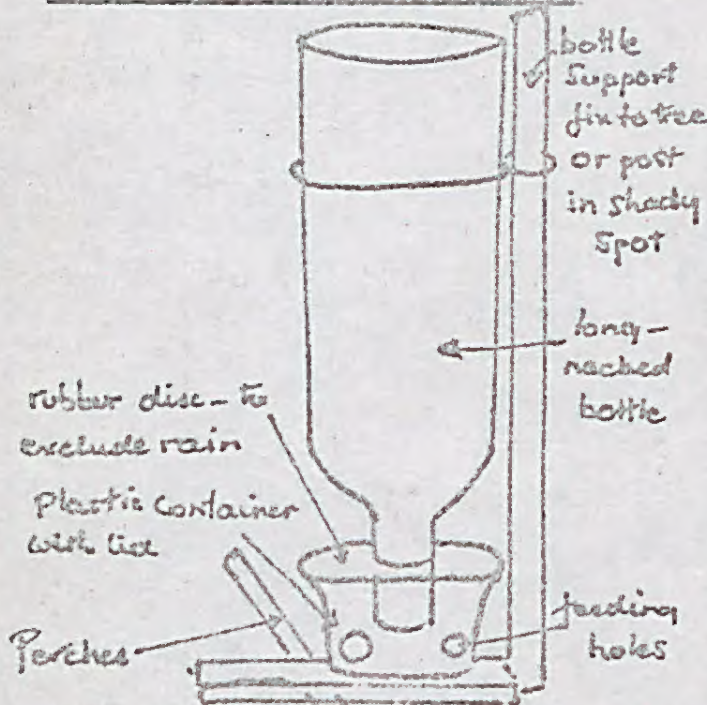
Again another stand is required with the larger mesh netting to keep out galahs and even the magpies which tend to scatter the seed.

Alongside a landing stick, widen the hole slightly to make an easier entrance. In early days a little seed scattered on the roof tends to attract them. The feed we use is mainly sunflower seeds. We have tried various Parrot mixes but apart from one brand "Parsons" which is

rather expensive, it was found that the birds only selected the sunflower seeds and left the rest to be wasted.



Part 4 : Honeyeaters



All types like a sugar syrup and the best way to feed them is to use the method recommended by the Gould League; which is an inverted bottle. You can make your own, but some plant nurseries sell the complete item. Our mixture is three and a half level dessertspoons of raw sugar and one of honey. Mix with a little hot water using an old fruit tin. Fill with cold water to about two thirds full. When put in a long necked wine bottle it should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Too full a bottle causes waste in hot weather through expansion.

The bottle should have a groove filed across the bottom or a small plastic bar on the bottom of the container to keep the bottle raised a little. By trial and error you will be able to mix up sufficient for the number of birds which eventually come to feed. Too little is better than too much as the mixture becomes fermented after a number of days and must be discarded. Again it may be advisable to make a wire netting cage around the bottle if the Wattle birds find it as they will drive off every other small bird as they take over.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

Committee meeting held at the Education Centre on Thursday Oct 24.

Treasurer Frank reported that funds amounted to \$31-11

He commented that memberships were slightly down on the 1980 figures.

Correspondence included the following :-

Ballaarat F.N.C. News Sheet

Whirrakee - the news letter of the Bendigo F.N.C.

W.V.F.N.C.A. newsletter. This included an article on the proposal to seek removal of tax benefits for land clearance which was on the agenda for the last meeting but which had not been voted on as it was felt that delegates had not had sufficient time or discussion. It was decided therefore to ask clubs to consider the matter and resubmit the motion at the Donald meeting.

City Council, a letter concerning the proposal to set up a Historical Park. No action was taken on this as it was felt that the next move in the matter should be taken by Council.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society - a letter seeking support for an independent parliamentary inquiry into the construction of H.E. dams in the S.W. of Tasmania. It was suggested that Field Nats. might if they wished, write to their M.P., write an article for their local newspaper, give a donation, or sign a petition.

Jaclyn Enterprises - giving notice of the imminent publication of a book on Diurnal birds of Prey. (Hawks).

The book will retail at \$29-50, inc post but if F.Nns wish to order, they can get a discount of 20% for orders of 10 or more, or 15% for an order of 5 to 10.

Show-day Hike to Expedition Pass

At 9.30 on the morning of Sep 21st, 10 energetic types set off from the High School with the intention of walking to Expedition Pass Reservoir for lunch. The party consisted of 7 adults, 2 children and one dog, who displayed more energy than any other three members of the party. First stop was the unknown miner's grave, after passing through an area of forest which was found to be regenerating very well after the recent fire. Thence to Moonlight Flat pine forest where the Solvsbergite dyke in a disused slate quarry was inspected. So on up to Lawson's Lookout through stands of mature pine trees which were some of the few left in the area after the recent logging operations.

The Reservoir was reached in time for lunch and the boiling of the billy, and although the day was windy, the pines afforded some protection, and despite the weather man's dire predictions, rain did not eventuate, but the clouds dispersed and the walk home was made in pleasant sunshine.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club

CLUB CALENDAR

Wednesday, Oct 7.

Outing : Expedition Pass Reservoir

Meet, outside Castle Motel at 4.15. Leader E.P.

Friday, Oct. 9

Meeting: Subject, "The Insects

Speaker, Mr H. Allen of Bendigo F.N.C.

Saturday, Oct. 10

Outing : Taradale

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Outing: North Castlemaine

Meet; at 118 Blakeley Road. Leader Rita Mills. Time 4.15.

Friday, November 13

Meeting : Subject. "The Birds of Mosquito Flat"

Speaker, Dr F. Harrap of the Ballarat F.N.C.

Saturday, Nov 14

Outing : Bells Swamp. Depart Ed.Centre at 1.30 p.m.

Leader, Max Winterbottom

Friday, December 11.

Meeting: As this will be the last meeting for 1981, the evening will be for members to contribute something in the way of observations, short talks, specimens, slides. Visitors and friends too are cordially invited to come along and contribute too if they wish.

The evening will conclude with a supper a little more elaborate than usual. How about bringing along a small contribution for the supper table ?

General meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Education Centre, Castlemaine.

Outings usually take place on the following Saturday, leaving the Ed. Centre at 1.30, after organising people into cars, etc.

Business meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 8 p.m. in the Castlemaine Education Centre, Mostyn Street.

Any alterations in the above arrangements will be notified.

Members of the public and intending members are cordially invited to attend meetings or outings.

President :	Mr G. Sitch	Ph 72 2734
Secretary :	Mrs M. Lindsay	72 2720
Treasurer :	Mr F. Meyer	72 1958
Newsletter:	Mr G. Broadway	72 2513